Launching of GRAMSAT

1565. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) proposes to place a separate satellite series, GRAMSAT in orbit for a massive programme of rural education and continuing education in industries;

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof; and

(b) by when it would be placed in orbit and to what extent it would help in educational TV programmes particularly rural education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has envisaged a concept of dedicated satellite "GRAMSAT" that could be launched by ISRO's Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). The salient features of the satellite are its compatibility with GSLV launch vehicle and a configuration that would be suitable for transmitting signals for reception directly by augmented TV receivers and also for terrestrial rebroadcasting However, the proposal is yet to be considered by the Government.

(c) A time-frame of 1995-96 has been envisaged. This satellite could be used for eradicating illiteracy in rural areas and for rural development through audio visual education in health, hygiene, better agriculutral facilities, family planning etc., in the local languages, taking into consideration locale specific and culture specific requirements of each region.

Ban on child labour

1566 SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether a number of Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of the children have recently demanded an immediate ban on child labour in hazardous occupations;

(b) if so, whether the above organisations have also demanded the publication of a white paper on the implementation of the provisions of Child Labour Act, 1986; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and by when a ban on child labour would be imposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The employment of children below the age of 14 years is banned in factories, mines and in various hazardous occupations. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 specifies, in the Schedule thereto, occupations and processes in which a child below the age of 14 years cannot be employed or permitted to work. A Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee is also constituted under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to advise the Central Government for the purpose of addition of occupations and processes to the Schedule of the Act. Further, the National Child Labour Policy formulated in 1987 contains, *inter-alia* a Legal Action Plan which provides for effective implementation of the legal provisions realting to child labour.

Implementation of the provisions of the Chidl Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and provisions pertaining to child labour contained in various other Acts lies in the main with State Governments/ Union Territories who have been addressed from time to time for strict implementation of these legal provisions.

Damages due to fires in the Country

1567. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that nearly one lakh people are killed and property worth Rs 100 crore is damaged due to fires every year in the country;

(b) if so whether the Central Government propose to modernise the fire management; and